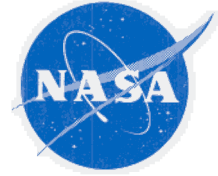


National Aeronautics and  
Space Administration  
**Headquarters**  
Washington, DC 20546-0001



February 2, 2006

Reply to Attn of: **Office of the Chief Engineer**

**TO:** Officials-in-Charge of Headquarters Offices  
Directors, NASA Centers


**FROM:** Chief Engineer  
Chief Safety and Mission Assurance Officer  
Chief Information Officer

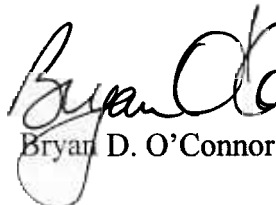
**SUBJECT:** 13th Annual NASA Software of the Year Award

As sponsors for the 13th Annual NASA Software of the Year Award, we are pleased to announce the call for nominations. This prestigious award is designed to give recognition to developers of exceptional software created for or by and owned by NASA. Every NASA Center and Facility is cordially invited to participate in this competition. The award includes the NASA Software Medal, a certificate signed by the Administrator, and up to \$100,000.

The NASA Inventions and Contributions Board Web site, <http://icb.nasa.gov/>, contains information about the last 12 competitions. The enclosure contains eligibility information and describes the selection process.

Excellence in software is vital to the Agency's leadership role in developing aeronautics and space technologies and transferring them to government and industry. The NASA Software of the Year Award competition allows us to recognize and appreciate the NASA team members that set high standards for significant software that is creative, usable, transferable, and possesses inherent quality. Please join us in fully supporting this year's competition.

  
Christopher J. Scolese

  
Bryan D. O'Connor

  
Patricia L. Dunnington

Enclosure

### Officials-in-Charge of Headquarters Offices

Deputy Administrator/Ms. Dale

Associate Administrator/Mr. Geveden

Chief of Staff/Mr. Morrell

Deputy Chief of Staff and White House Liaison/Mr. Jezierski

Associate Administrator for Aeronautics Research Mission Directorate/Dr. Porter

Associate Administrator for Exploration Systems Mission Directorate/Dr. Horowitz

Associate Administrator for Institutions and Management/Mr. Sutton (Acting)

- Assistant Administrator for Diversity and Equal Opportunity/Dr. Hayden-Watkins
- Assistant Administrator for Human Capital Management/Ms. Dawsey
- Assistant Administrator for Infrastructure and Administration/Mr. Sutton
- Assistant Administrator for Procurement/Mr. Luedtke
- Assistant Administrator for Security and Program Protection/Mr. Saleeba
- Assistant Administrator for Small and Disadvantaged Business Utilization/Mr. Balinskas (Acting)
- Chief Health and Medical Officer/Dr. Williams
- Executive Director, NSSC/Mr. Arbuthnot

Associate Administrator for Program Analysis and Evaluation/Dr. Pace

Associate Administrator for Science Mission Directorate/Dr. Cleave

Associate Administrator for Space Operations Mission Directorate/Mr. Gerstenmaier

Chief Engineer/Mr. Scolese

Chief Financial Officer/Ms. Sykes

Chief of Strategic Communications/Mr. Davis

- Assistant Administrator for External Relations/Mr. O'Brien
- Assistant Administrator for Legislative Affairs/Mr. Chase
- Assistant Administrator for Public Affairs/Mr. Mould
- Chief Education Officer/Ms. Diaz (Acting)

General Counsel/Mr. Wholley

Inspector General/Mr. Cobb

### Directors, NASA Centers

Ames Research Center/Mr. Hubbard

Dryden Flight Research Center/Mr. Petersen

Glenn Research Center/Dr. Whitlow

Goddard Space Flight Center/Dr. Weiler

Jet Propulsion Laboratory/Dr. Elachi

Johnson Space Center/Mr. Coats

Kennedy Space Center/Mr. Kennedy

Langley Research Center/Ms. Roe

Marshall Space Flight Center/Mr. King

Stennis Space Center/Mr. Parsons

cc:

Executive Secretariat/Mr. Box

Senior Advisor to the Deputy Administrator/Mr. Hopkins

Office of the Administrator/Ms. Hutchinson

Assistant Associate Administrator/Ms. Johnson

Office of the Administrator/Ms. Mays

Senior Advisor to the Deputy Administrator/Mr. Ralsky

Special Assistant/Mr. Shank

Office of the Administrator/Ms. Soper

Office of the Deputy Administrator/Dr. Spyke

Office of the Chief Engineer/Dr. Curto

Mr. Forsgren

Dr. Kelly

Ms. Sweeney

## **Eligibility**

The competition is open to author(s) of outstanding scientific and technical software which has:

- (1) been officially released by a project within the last 3 years. Note: Software may only be considered officially released after all experimental phases have been successfully completed to the satisfaction of the customer.
- (2) received the Invention and Contributions Board's (ICB's) initial software release award for the contribution prior to April 14, 2006,
- (3) a current Technology Readiness Level (TRL) of 7 or higher,
- (4) a NASA intellectual property interest,
- (5) been supported, adopted, sponsored, or used by NASA, and
- (6) made a significant scientific or technical contribution to the NASA mission.

It is highly recommended that the local NASA Safety and Mission Assurance organization's software assurance personnel review and provide a report on the candidate software, its release status, and the processes followed for its development. In addition, all software must be in compliance with NASA security procedures per NASA Policy Directive 2810, NASA Information Security Policy.

- NASA Centers, NASA Facilities (e.g., Independent Verification and Validation Facility, Wallops Flight Facility, White Sands Test Facility, Plumbrook, etc.), major contractors, supporting universities, and small businesses may participate.

## **Entries**

- Each individual entry must be submitted electronically (either by e-mail, Web site access, ftp site access, or on compact disk, DVD, superdisk, or zip drive) using NASA Form 1329, ICB Award Evaluation Questionnaire, and the NASA Software of the Year Summary Evaluation Document. NASA Form 1329 Part II must also be submitted through the Awards Liaison Officer, in hard copy, which contains the original signatures of the official NASA technical management reviewers. Copies of the software, sample applications and data, and descriptive documentation of the package should be provided, but only electronically. The entry must be supplemented by evidence (letters from software users submitted electronically) demonstrating the software's impact, degree of innovation, and suitability. This information will be the primary data used by the ICB in recommending awards, and will be electronically submitted to the judges.

NASA Centers will collect and evaluate entries from their associated activities.

Each NASA Center may then select and submit a nominee. Component NASA Facilities may submit one additional nominee if the entry was initiated by a Facility under its cognizance.

## **Deadlines**

- Submit entries and supporting material to NASA Centers not later than April 14, 2006.
- Each NASA Center will forward its top selection(s) to the Invention and Contributions Board (ICB) by May 15, 2006.

## **Judging**

- Entries will be judged by a NASA Software Award Review Panel comprised of a software development expert from each NASA Center and NASA Facility, if it has a nominee.
- After their review, the Panel will submit its nominee(s) to the ICB.
- The ICB will then recommend monetary awards for the cases to the Administrator, under the auspices of the Space Act of 1958, as amended. The ICB may recommend a monetary award of up to \$100,000, depending on the value of the contribution to government and industry.

NASA officials will present the award later in the year. Additional inquiries on award criteria should be made through the NASA Space Act Awards Liaison Officer at any NASA Center or through the ICB (<http://icb.nasa.gov/alos.html>).

Additionally, winning cases may be eligible for publication in *Innovation in Systems and Software Engineering: A NASA Journal*. The contact for this privilege is Dr. Michael Hinchey of the Goddard Space Flight Center.